(c) whether protest is being made against import of gold; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total quantity and value of Gold imported during April 2005 to September 2005 is 442.87 Tonnes and Rs. 27080.88 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) No protest has been received against the import of gold.

**Insurance scheme for seafood exporters**

319. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India has designed a special insurance scheme for seafood exporters which would cover the risk of rejection of consignment particularly by western countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India have agreed in principle to provide an additional cover provision under the existing Credit Insurance Policies for covering rejection risks arising due to presence of antibiotic residues in shrimps exported to European Union and Japan. The proposed cover is under preparation and will be introduced once the necessary approvals are in place.

**Trade agreements with different countries**

320. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Agreement and MoUs entered into with various countries in the last two years;

(b) whether enough safeguards have been made to take care of the domestic industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The information giving details of the Agreements and MoUs entered into with various countries in the last two years is enclosed as Statement. (See below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The objective of the Regional/Bilateral trade agreements is to provide preferential access to imports on only such products which are produced or manufactured in the Signatory Parties only. For this, preferences under the trade agreements, where concluded, are subject to fulfillment of certain qualifying criteria under the Rules of Origin and maintenance of negative list of items on which no tariff concessions are granted under the agreement. In case of a surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, recourse to measures such as antidumping and safeguards can also be taken.

(d) Does not arise.

***Statement***

| Sl.No | Agreement/Moll | Date on which signed |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Areas (SAFTA) | 6-1-2004 |
| 2. | Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with MERCOSUR (a trade of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) | 25-1-2004 |
| 3. | Framework Agreement on the BIMSTEC FTA (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Area) was signed in Thailand by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand | 8-2-2004 |
| 4. | Framework Agreement between India and the Gulf Coorporation Council (GCC) consisting of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates | 25-8-2004 |
| 5. | Agreement on Economic Coorporation between the Ministry of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic | 13-12-2004 |

| SLNo | Agreement/MoU | Date on which signed |
|---|---|---|
| 6. | Agreement between India and the United Kingdom for establishment of a Joint Economic and Trade Committee | 13-1-2005 |
| 7. | Framework Agreement to promote Economic Operation with Chile | 20-1-2005 |
| 8. | MoU on fishery and aquaculture products between India and Italy | 14-2-2005 |
| 9. | Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore | 29-6-2005 |
| 10. | MoU between India and Mauritius in the field of Consumer Protection and Legal Metrology | 24-10-2005 |
| 11. | MoU between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) | 24-10-2005 |
| 12. | MoU between Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) and Government of Mauritius | 24-10-2005 |
| 13. | MoU on Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and Mauritius | 24-10-2005 |
| 14. | An MoU was signed with Indonesia on 23.11.2005 for setting up of a Joint Study Group (JSG) for examining the feasibility of conclusion of CECA in order to further enhance our economic presence in the region | 23-11-2005 |
| 15. | A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation for establishing a Joint Study Group (JSG) to formulate a programe to suggest steps for enhancing bilateral trade between India and Russia with an overall objective of diversifying and strengthening the bilateral relations in a wide range of areas, particularly with regard to trade in goods and services, investment and economic cooperation and to study the feasibility to consider the possibility of signing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and Russian Federation. | 6-2-2006 |
| 16. | Agreement on Trade & Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro | 7-2-2006 |